

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317)232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6530

BILL NUMBER: HB 1085

DATE PREPARED: Mar 1, 1999

BILL AMENDED: Mar 1, 1999

SUBJECT: Election of superior court judges in Lake and St. Joseph County; municipal elections.

FISCAL ANALYST: Beverly Holloway

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that a municipal primary election and a municipal election may be held in presidential election years beginning in 2000. It requires a municipal election to be held in presidential election years whenever the municipal primary election is held in a presidential election year.

This bill requires the election of judges in Lake County and St. Joseph County. It eliminates the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission, the St. Joseph County Judicial Nominating Commission, and the St. Joseph County Judicial Qualifications Commission. The current judges in office continue until the end of the judges' current terms.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) This bill allows a municipal primary election and a municipal general election to be held in presidential election years beginning in 2000. However, the municipal primary and general election must be held in the same year. This provision may have a fiscal impact on the municipality. If a municipality chooses to hold the primary and general election during a presidential election, the municipality would share the cost of the election with the county. The municipality would not incur the cost of conducting a primary and general election during a non-presidential year.

The passage of this bill may increase printing expenses involved in preparing ballots for the election of Superior Court judges in Lake and St. Joseph County. The additional costs will depend upon how the districts are drawn as well as other factors. Election expenses are paid from the county general fund.

There will be a reduction in expenditures for the Lake and St. Joseph County Superior Courts since the courts would no longer be required to prepare and print the ballots for the election of judges through the nominating commissions.

Although the bill repeals current law which includes the 7-member Judicial Nominating and Qualification Commissions, no savings would be realized because in practice, members do not claim the per diem and expense reimbursements to which they are now entitled.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Municipalities; Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission; St. Joseph County Judicial Nominating Commission; St. Joseph County Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Information Sources: Pam Shelhart, Lake County Election Board, (219) 755-3467; Linda Scopelitis, St. Joseph County Clerk, (219) 235-9635.